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HOUSE BILL 171

46TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2003

INTRODUCED BY

Thomas C. Taylor

AN ACT

RELATING TO HIGHER EDUCATION; INCREASING ELIGIBILITY FOR
TUITION SCHOLARSHIPS FROM THE LOTTERY TUITION FUND TO MILITARY
DEPENDENTS OF NEW MEXICO RESIDENTS; AMENDING A SECTION OF THE
NMSA 1978.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO:

Section 1. Section 21-1-4.3 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1996,
Chapter 71, Section 3, as amended) is amended to read:

"21-1-4.3. TUITION SCHOLARSHIPS AUTHORIZED-- CERTAIN
EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS. --

A. To the extent that funds are made available by
the legislature from the lottery tuition fund, the boards of
regents of New Mexico state university, New Mexico institute of
mining and technology, eastern New Mexico university, western
New Mexico university, the university of New Mexico, New Mexico

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1 highlands university and northern New Mexico state school shall
2 award tuition scholarships for qualified resident students
3 attending their respective institutions and branches of those
4 institutions.

5 B. Except as authorized in [~~Subsection C~~]
6 Subsections C and D of this section, the tuition scholarships
7 authorized in this section shall apply only to full-time
8 resident students who [~~immediately upon completion of a high~~
9 ~~school curriculum at a public or accredited private New Mexico~~
10 ~~high school or upon receiving a graduate equivalent diploma,~~
11 ~~are accepted for entrance to and attend one of the state~~
12 ~~educational institutions set forth in this section or one of~~
13 ~~the branches of those institutions]~~:

14 (1) have completed a high school curriculum at
15 a public New Mexico high school; or

16 (2) have completed a high school curriculum at
17 an accredited private New Mexico high school; or

18 (3) have completed an equivalent high school
19 curriculum at any high school and are the dependents of New
20 Mexico residents who, as a result of service in the United
21 States armed forces, are stationed outside of New Mexico at
22 completion; or

23 (4) have received a graduate equivalent
24 diploma; and

25 (5) immediately upon completion of the high

1 school requirements, are accepted for entrance to and attend
2 one of the state educational institutions set forth in this
3 section or one of the branches of those institutions.

4 Each tuition scholarship shall be awarded for up to four
5 consecutive years beginning the second semester of the
6 recipient's first year of enrollment, provided that the
7 recipient has maintained residency in New Mexico and maintained
8 a grade point average of 2.5 or higher on a 4.0 scale during
9 his first semester of full-time enrollment.

10 C. The tuition scholarships authorized in this
11 section shall also apply to full-time resident students who
12 [~~immediately upon completion of a high school curriculum at a~~
13 ~~public or accredited private New Mexico high school or upon~~
14 ~~receiving a graduate equivalent diploma]~~ meet any of the
15 requirements of Paragraphs (1) through (4) of Subsection B of
16 this section and attend a two-year public post-secondary
17 educational institution in New Mexico and who, upon the
18 completion of that curriculum or at the end of two years,
19 whichever is sooner, transfer to one of the post-secondary
20 state educational institutions set forth in this section.
21 Those students shall be eligible for a tuition scholarship for
22 two consecutive years, provided that those students maintain
23 residency in New Mexico, maintain a grade point average of 2.5
24 or higher on a 4.0 scale and attend the institution full time
25 during the regular academic year.

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1 D. The tuition scholarships authorized in this
2 section shall also apply to full-time resident students who:

3 (1) meet any of the requirements of Paragraphs
4 (1) through (4) of Subsection B of this section and within one
5 hundred twenty days of completion [of a high school curriculum
6 at a public or accredited private New Mexico high school, or of
7 receiving a graduate equivalent diploma] begin service in the
8 United States armed forces; and

9 (2) within one hundred twenty days of
10 completion of honorable service or medical discharge from the
11 service are accepted for entrance to and attend one of the
12 state educational institutions set forth in this section.

13 E. The commission on higher education shall prepare
14 guidelines setting forth explicit student continuing
15 eligibility criteria and guidelines for administration of the
16 tuition scholarship program. Guidelines shall be distributed
17 to the board of regents of each institution to enable a uniform
18 availability of the resident student tuition scholarships. "

19 Section 2. EFFECTIVE DATE. --The effective date of the
20 provisions of this act is July 1, 2003.